



North American Natural Casing Association

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January 8, 2004

To: David Knoebel
Globe Casing Company, Inc.
Route 46/PO Box 355
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From: Shirley A. Coffield, Counsel and Executive Secretary, NANCA

Re: Restrictions on US and Canadian Beef Products

Currently, the following restrictions are in place affecting beef casings imported into or used in the US.

1. **No beef casings are allowed to be imported or used in the US from the following regions/countries with BSE or BSE risk as listed in USDA regulations: 9CFR 94.18 (a) and (b).**

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, **Canada**, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Monaco, Oman, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

2. **No small intestines from animals originating in the US can be saved at the slaughterhouse or used in the US. (As announced by USDA Secretary Veneman on December 30, 2003.)**

3. **Beef casings are allowed to be imported and used in the US from all sources not listed as BSE risk countries, which includes countries NOT listed above.**

(FYI, no South American country is listed on the BSE list, nor is Australia and NZ) Product can be imported and sold for use in the US if it comes from ANY country not listed above.

The US is now considering new rules to be effective for US and Canadian product. We expect that these rules will limit the ban on beef casings to the distal ileum or at most the entire small intestine (rounds) only the basis of both countries being minimal risk for BSE. Currently, no part of the intestine is now banned from countries that are not on the BSE risk list cited in 1. above.